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Illuminator

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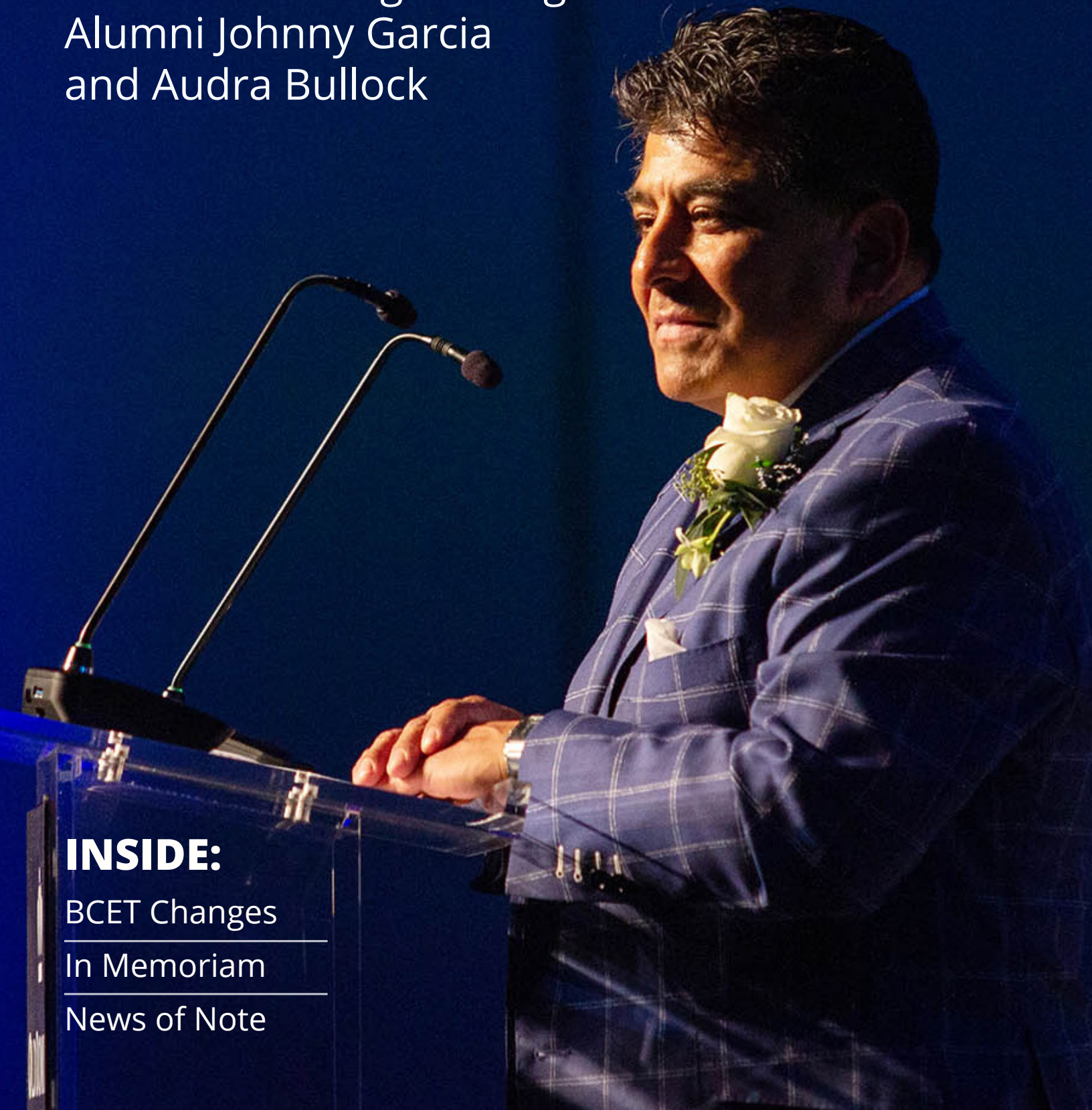
ODU Honors Engineering
Alumni Johnny Garcia
and Audra Bullock

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BCET CHANGES

Fall 2021



INTERIM DEAN

DR. KHAN IFTEKHARUDDIN, associate dean for Research and Graduate Programs (ADR) was named interim dean of the College.

Prior to becoming the ADR in 2017, Dr. Iftekharuddin served as chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering for four years.

Under his leadership, the College saw significant increase in research and scholarly enterprise and continued to build graduate programs to best serve the needs of students and faculty.

Dr. Iftekharuddin served as a PI/co-PI for over \$15 million externally funded research projects and successfully led multiple national and international collaborative research projects.

His research interests include computational modeling, AI and machine learning, stochastic medical imaging analysis, radiogenomics for precision medicine, biologically inspired human-machine interaction and recognition, and sensing and cyberphysical system.

His research in sensors, AI/ML and signal/image processing has led to four patents.

Iftekharuddin is the author or co-author of a book and of about two hundred refereed journal papers and conference proceedings, and eleven book chapters on his work, and has journal editorial and conference organization experience.

Dr. Iftekharuddin was named among the top 2% of the most-cited researchers worldwide from a 2020 Stanford University study.

He was awarded Old Dominion University's 2020 Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement Award.

Dr. Iftekharuddin received his Ph.D. from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at University of Dayton, and he is a fellow of SPIE – The International Society for Optics and Photonics.



DR. SANDEEP KUMAR, professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was named interim assistant dean of Research and Graduate Studies.



DR. ORLANDO AYALA, associate professor in the Department of Engineering Technology, was named director of the Engineering Makerspace and Invention Center.



DR. HÜSEYİN SARPER, lecturer in the Engineering Fundamentals Division, was named director of BCET Engineering Outreach.



DR. VUKICA JOVANOVIĆ, associate professor in the Department of Engineering Technology, was named interim chair of the Engineering Technology Department.



DR. BOB ASH, Eminent Scholar and professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, retired after 54 years at the University.

Read [more](#).

ALUMNI AWARDS

Audra Bullock and Johnny Garcia Honored by ODU Alumni Association



Engineering alumni Audra Bullock and Johnny Garcia were recognized during the Old Dominion University Alumni Association's 2021 Distinguished Alumni Honorees Dinner.

Bullock, '96, '97 M.S., '00 Ph.D., founding director and president of [Tidewater Friends of Foster Care](#), was awarded the Jack Frost Alumni Service Award for her work improving the lives of foster children.

Garcia '11, Ph.D., founder and CEO of SimIS Inc., was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Garcia is a Hampton Roads entrepreneur, community leader and champion for diversity.

AUDRA BULLOCK

Audra Bullock never intended to leave her engineering position at NASA Langley Research Center.

She had, after all, earned her doctorate in electrical engineering from ODU, spent six years as a faculty member at the University of Hawaii and worked her way up to a NASA mission manager position.

"I never intended to start a nonprofit, she said. "I never intended to quit my job at NASA and do this for free, all day long," she said.

But a very small boy changed everything.

Read Bullock's [story](#).

JOHNNY GARCIA

When it comes to civic leadership, Johnny Garcia is on board.

Garcia, in fact, is on countless boards.

He serves on the boards of the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, the Portsmouth Partnership, STARBASE Victory, Boys and Girls Club, Communities in Schools and the Portsmouth Police Department PAL Program.

He is also vice chair at the Hampton Roads Chamber, president/chair at Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC), president of Batten College of Engineering & Technology Executive Advisory Board.

Read more about Garcia [here](#).

IN MEMORIAM



1965 - 2020

Frederic (Rick) McKenzie

Old Dominion University lost one of its most respected engineering faculty members with the passing of Frederic (Rick) McKenzie, professor and chair of the Department of Computational Modeling and Simulation Engineering. Read more about McKenzie [here](#).



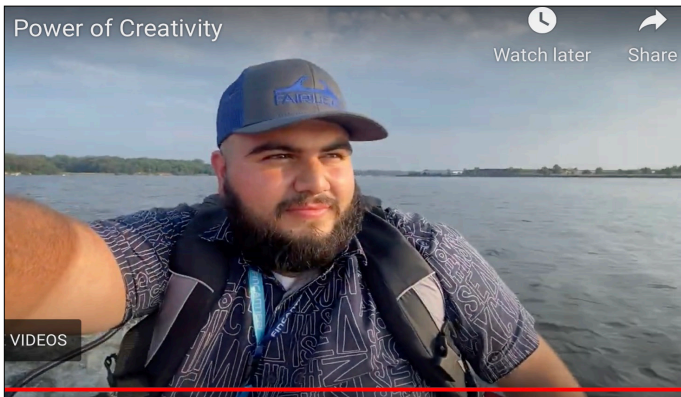
1951 - 2020

Cheng Yang Lin,

professor of engineering technology, joined ODU in 1989. Cheng served as the department's mechanical engineering technology program director from 2008 to 2018.

Read about Lin [here](#).

BCET STUDENTS



Neil St. Clair, Daniel Erdogan and Larry Price almost didn't make it into the water. After a monthlong frenzy of building an electric boat — and creatively using whatever parts they could find, including a golf cart motor — the students hit a snag during the Promoting Electric Propulsion for Small Craft competition. Find out what happened [here](#).

News of Note

[Researchers Use Autonomous Hydrone to Help Coastal Community Map Shoreline](#)

[ODU Awarded NSF, NSA Cybersecurity Grants](#)

[Provost's Fellows Announced for 2021-2022 Academic Year](#)

[ODU Receives \\$1.45 Million State Grant Aimed at Cybersecurity Workforce](#)

[Batten College of Engineering and Technology to Initiate Undergraduate Major in Modeling and Simulation Engineering](#)

FACULTY

Fulbright awards

Sandeep Kumar, professor of civil and environmental engineering, will spend five months at the University of Naples "Parthenope" in Italy teaching two graduate-level courses and developing a collaborative research opportunity.

Dimitrie Popescu, professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, will spend four months in the High-Speed Networks Lab at Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

C. Ariel Pinto, associate professor in engineering management and systems, will collaborate with Swansea University (Wales) on artificial intelligence as a way to regulate and identify terrorism via social media.

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The **Illuminator** is a publication of the Batten College of Engineering and Technology

Khan Iftekharudin, Ph.D., Interim Dean

Sherry DiBari, Director of Communications and Marketing

Batten College of Engineering and Technology

Old Dominion University
1105 Engineering Systems Building
Norfolk, VA 23529
757.683.3789, engineer@odu.edu

